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Contact Report

2P  
[ ] , [ ] , [ ] , [ ] , [ ] and CATUSKers  
1930 hours 21 December 1966  
[ ] 's home (Christmas Party Attended by UTILITY)

1. During the course of his little speech at [ ] 's party UTILITY acknowledged the sentiments and comments previously offered by [ ] in a gracious and apparently quite sincere manner. UTILITY spoke in German rather than English ... which surprised me, particularly since his remarks were, to a considerable extent, directed to [ ] seated directly across the table. Besides the usual thanks for the support and cooperation provided by [ ] , his staff, [ ] , and WOPACT in general, during the year just past, UTILITY made a few points which in my view are worth recording and which I am, to the best of my ability, reproducing below for the record.

a. In expressing thanks for close support, cooperation, etc., UTILITY dwelt on the traditions of close association and friendship between CATUSK and WOPACT developed over twenty years. He stressed that this has enabled the two services to have disagreements from time to time and in some cases even a serious one (I got the impression he was alluding to the [ ] affair), but that the friendship between the two services will go on and that the partners in the long run will be closer for having been able to disagree.

b. UTILITY had a few words to say about the latest political developments in the Federal Republic, stressing the point that he has always been convinced that the "grosse Koalition" would be the only solution over the long run for the accumulation of serious problems with which the West Germans find themselves confronted. He ended on a strong note of optimism concerning the new Chancellor's prospects as he begins his term of office.

c. On a distinctly personal note, UTILITY expressed his thanks in behalf of not only himself but also his wife (according to my recollection this is the first in many years that UTILITY's wife has attended one of these Christmas parties) to [ ] and [ ] . He stated that his attendance at these affairs has always afforded him considerable pleasure and that he hoped, and expected, to be around to attend a few more of them.

2. During the course of the evening I had only a few short separate conversation with UTILITY beyond the usual social amenities. I had the impression that he seemed generally to be enjoying himself to the hilt.

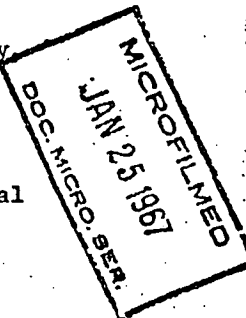
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It was impossible not to notice that, as midnight was approaching, @HOLM, @DEGENHARDT, and @ROENDORF and their wives seemed to be eyeing each other in a sense of some dismay that the party was still carrying on and that UTILITY apparently had no intention of calling it an evening. It was my personal impression, and this is shared by [ ] , that the air was almost thick with apprehension as HOLM, DEGENHART, and ROENDORF were becoming increasingly itchy to hit the road for home but obviously couldn't jar themselves loose until UTILITY started making some signs of leaving. It is my understanding that DEGENHARDT's driver was available at 2230 hours for the homeward trip. If my recollection is correct UTILITY and his wife did not depart until approximately 0130 hours.

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